



S P R I N G 1 9 8 9

FROM
—THE—
LAND

I N S I D E

GLASTONBURY HIGHLANDS,
FOLLY BROOK, CHESTER
CREEK, THE CONNECTICUT
RIVER, FAIRFIELD COUNTY,
RAGGED ROCK CREEK, THE
TNC CALENDAR & MORE



A PUBLICATION OF
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Building A Wild Legacy

Lately I have been agonizing over how we're going to meet the mounting list of land conservation challenges facing the Connecticut Chapter. With over 250 sites listed state-wide, the roster of threatened natural lands grows weekly. We're now negotiating the acquisition of over \$5 million worth of critical wildlife habitat. This figure represents our biggest cash commitment ever.

Yet I always find comfort in the fact that we're not facing this challenge alone. TNC has a rapidly growing list of members and conservation partners who pitch in with us, to save Connecticut's vanishing habitats.

As development devours our landscape, the need for a united land saving effort composed of government and private conservation interests, is vital.

Historically, private land gifts to the state and conservation organizations provided the foundation for much of Connecticut's land legacy. Despite the absence of national parks and forests in Connecticut, Uncle Sam was still a partner in our land conservation efforts. Matching grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), provided over \$62 million for land and recreation projects state-wide. The genius of this program was not just the money, but the partnerships it spawned.

Federal funds for land preservation in Connecticut have declined dramatically in recent years, but there are glimmers of hope that this will change. Establishment of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge, with assistance from TNC and other conservation groups, was an important leap forward for habitat preservation on Long Island Sound. Congress is considering establishment of an American Heritage Trust Fund to replace the LWCF, which could bring \$6 million annually into Connecticut for land and recreation projects.

Land gifts continue to be an important part of TNC's program, but the pace of development and rising land costs mean *many critical habitats have to be purchased*. New England has only another 10-15 years before our most critical unprotected natural lands are lost to development. The mission is compelling and time is short. No natural area is secure until we secure it.

TNC's formula for successful land-saving action includes one primary ingredient—*teamwork*. Staff, trustees, members, and friends are united in our common mission to save our planet's biological heritage. TNC's contagious spirit, business-like approach, and enthusiasm for cooperation have spilled

over to our conservation partners everywhere. *From the Land* is filled with dozens of stories of land-saving partnerships that worked. We're even reaching out to our Latin American neighbors, hosting Paulina Ospina, a conservation fellow from Columbia.

TNC's latest challenge to preserve the Glastonbury Highlands is a complicated and expensive land-saving opportunity that depends upon cooperation and support by many parties. Having just secured an option on 166 acres of prime developable habitat, we now need leadership and support from Governor O'Neill, the State Bonding Commission, Connecticut DEP, the town of Glastonbury, and the Kongsut Land Trust as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars in private donations. Without Connecticut's Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, projects like this would not be possible. A joint victory here will guarantee preservation of over 3,000 acres of contiguous wild land just a stone's throw from Hartford, a legacy of great benefit to nature and our citizens.

New partnerships are being forged every week. The Hartford City Council recently took a bold step, becoming the first Connecticut municipality to grant a conservation easement to TNC over its public land at Folly Brook. Conservancy staff, city officials, DEP, and UConn scientists will now develop a long-range stewardship plan for this valuable flood-plain forest.

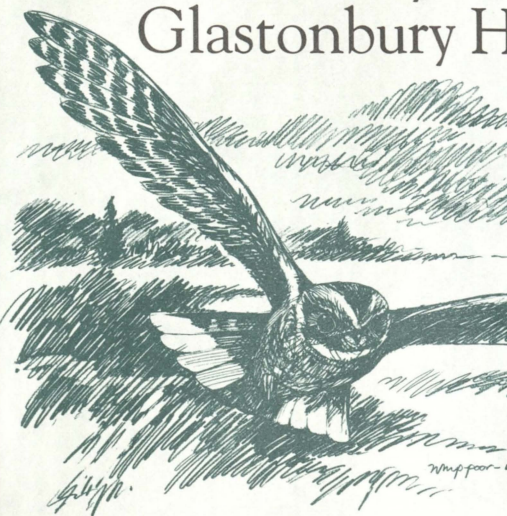
In less than two years, the Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut, which includes over 70 state-wide and local organizations and 200 individuals, has become a strong political force for land conservation funding. LCCC has been successful in securing, with the leadership and support of Governor O'Neill, a pledge for over \$100 million for land conservation over the next five years. This fund will be leveraged greatly through cooperative land-saving efforts.

The strong partnerships and lasting friendships that emanate from our joint conservation initiatives are building an impressive cadre of Connecticut land savers and land stewards. I cheer each of our conservation partners; they are helping create a legacy of wild lands for Connecticut.

Leslie N. Corey
Leslie N. Corey, Jr.
Executive Director

Chapter's Most Ambitious Project

TNC Holds Key to Glastonbury H



Through a project that is the most ambitious it ever has undertaken, the Connecticut Chapter soon could hold the key to preserving Glastonbury's last large wilderness-like area, the Glastonbury Highlands. This rich forest is a jewel that stands in stark contrast to the encroaching urban and suburban areas nearby.

The Chapter holds an option to buy a 166-acre parcel in the center of some 3,000 contiguous acres in the Highlands. By June 30, the Chapter hopes to have raised all of the negotiated purchase price of \$2,285,000.

The state of Connecticut, under the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, has given TNC a letter of commitment for 80 percent of the price. The town of Glastonbury will decide its level of commitment in the near future, and TNC has launched its own fundraising drive.

The price is substantially below the market value of the land, a portion of which was slated for subdivision into 14 lots.

The cul-de-sac that would lead into this subdivision would provide ready access to other parcels in the interior of the forest. Acquisition of this key parcel thus would reduce the risk of destroying adjacent habits owned by the state of Connecticut (2,000 acres in seven parcels), the

Preserving Highlands



Kongscut Land Trust (94 acres in two parcels), and the town of Glastonbury (three acres).

Approximately 13 private land-owners in the area also own parcels that deserve protection.

The Glastonbury

Highlands are part of a

greenbelt formed by the

Eastern Highlands, a long

ridge providing a geological contrast to Dark Hollow Brook and the adjacent valley.

An area of topographic ex-

tremes, the land has oak forests on the summits and almost impenetrable thickets of mountain laurel on steep hillsides. These cascade down to a cool, moist streambed that is an important wildlife corridor. Massive hemlocks grow in the shaded ravine.

Each of the many subtle and dramatic landscapes in the preserve supports a wide variety of woodland life, including mountain laurel, Indian pipes, lady slippers, trilliums, whippoorwills, hawks, owls, turkey vultures, red foxes, coyotes, and rattlesnakes that follow an ancient migration path.

Les Corey, executive director of the Chapter, and Carolie Evans, director of land protection, conducted the negotiations that led to the securing of the option, which expires June 20. 🌿

Important Bills Aw Finance Committe

As the legislative session enters its mid-point, all of the priority bills supported by Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut (LCCC) and TNC are still alive.

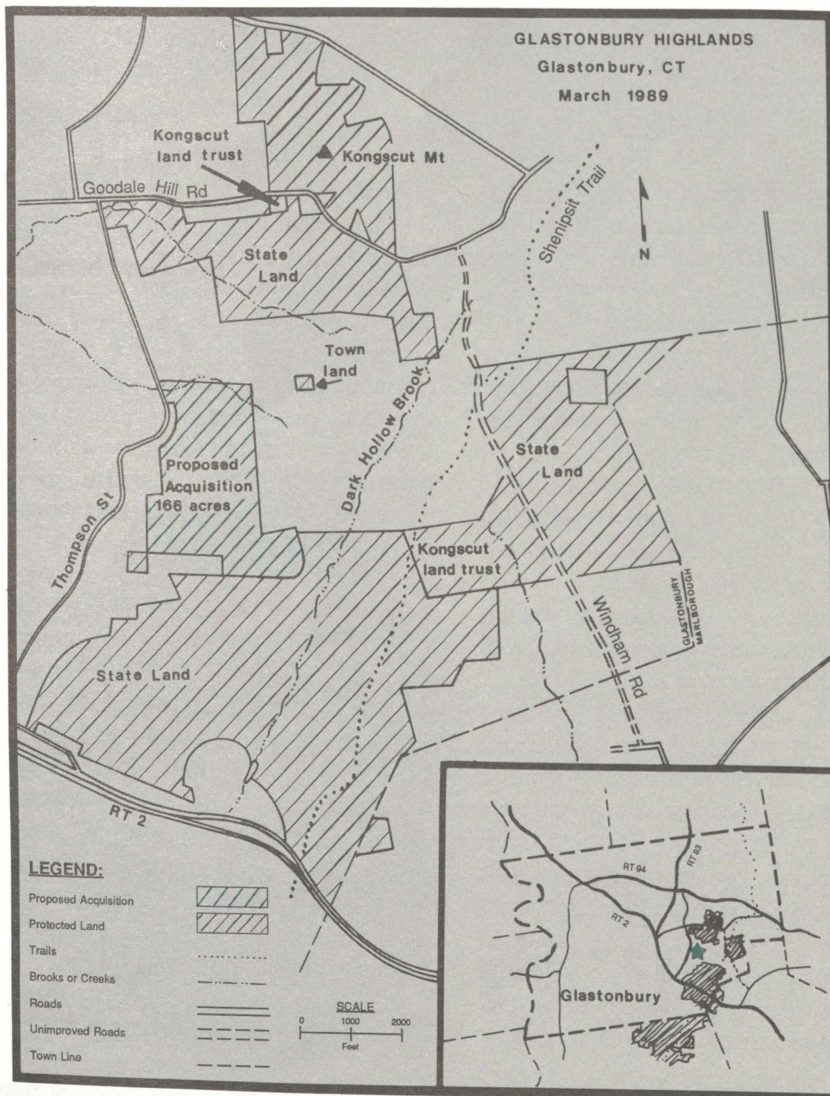
Much of their fate depends upon favorable action by the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee.

Open space bonding bills: Renewing his commitment to funding for open space protection, Governor O'Neill has included in his proposed budget \$15 million for the state Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, \$5 million for grants-in-aid to municipalities, and \$8 million for the Farmlands Preservation Program. However, this does not automatically ensure passage of these proposals.

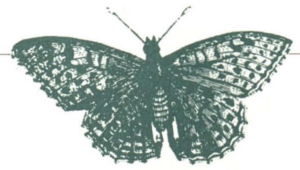
In addition, a bill authorizing \$10 million in bonds for land acquisition along the Connecticut River has been introduced by Senators John Larson and Cornelius O'Leary and Representative Vincent Mazzota. Part of an omnibus bonding bill, HB 7332, approved by the Environment Committee, it has been referred to the Finance Committee. In December the New England Governors' Conference gave its endorsement to the lower Connecticut River as a regional priority for preservation.

Land bank enabling legislation: The Environment Committee also approved HB 7204, enabling municipalities to establish a fund for land acquisition for open space or housing by imposing a conveyance tax of up to 1/2 of 1 percent on real estate transfers. It has been referred to the Finance Committee where it faces an uncertain future.

Amendments to Public Act 490: This bill, HB 5404, requires land-owners whose lands have received preferential tax assessment as farm,



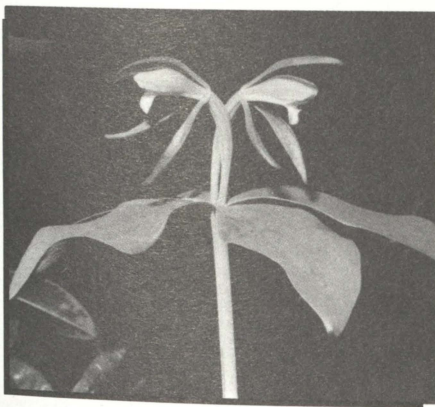
(Map by David Casagrande)



Waiting for Action

forest, and open space lands, to notify the municipality where the land is located when they intend to sell, thereby giving the town the opportunity to buy the property. Strongly opposed by the Connecticut Farm Bureau, which fears any changes in Public Act 490, it is supported by the Department of Agriculture, TNC, the LCCC and others.

Endangered species legislation: A top legislative priority of TNC, Connecticut Audubon Society, DEP, and the Non-harvested Wildlife Advisory Board, this proposal (HB 7136) enables Connecticut to join the 26 other states that have their own endangered species lists and laws. Approved by the Environment and the General Administration and Elections Committees, it is now awaiting action by the Judiciary Committee. 🌿



(Photo by Les McWhiff)

The small whorled pogonia, an endangered wild orchid, has a greenish-yellow flower and is known to exist in very few places throughout New England. Learn more about this and other rare and endangered species at the Fourth Annual Wildflower Festival at The University of Connecticut in Storrs, Sunday, June 11, 1-5 p.m. 🌿

C A L E N D A R

May 27 (Saturday),
9-11 a.m.

Katharine Ordway
Preserve Walk,
Weston

Start the summer season with a walk in the woods on Memorial Day weekend. Leader, Fred Moore, preserve manager. Space limited; call Devil's Den Preserve Office for reservation and further information (226-4991).

June 4 (Sunday),

11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Photographic Workshop
at Devil's Den Preserve,
Weston

This workshop on nature photography will be led by Tom Chiapel, Director of New England Photographic Workshops. A student of Minor White and Ansel Adams, Tom has been teaching photography since 1976. Space limited; call Devil's Den Preserve Office for reservation and more information (226-4991).

June 11 (Sunday),
9-11 a.m.

Mountain Laurel Walk
at the Katharine
Ordway Preserve,
Weston

Enjoy a morning filled with fragrant mountain laurel in full blossom and woodland wildflowers of all kinds. Volunteer leader, Pam Goff, botanist. Space limited; call Devil's Den Preserve Office for reservation and more information (226-4991).

June 11 (Sunday),
1-5 p.m.

Wildflower Festival,
Storrs

A rare opportunity to see more than 150 living wildflowers, learn about threatened species, and attend lectures, workshops, and demonstrations for children and adults will be the Fourth Annual Wildflower Festival at The Connecticut State Museum of

Natural History, The University of Connecticut, Jorgensen Auditorium, Hillside Road, Storrs. Admission is \$3 for the general public, free for Museum members and children. For information, call 486-4460.

June 17 (Saturday),
9 a.m.

Poquetanuck Cove
Canoe Trip,
Ledyard

Join Les Corey and Mark McEathron for a leisurely canoe tour of Poquetanuck Cove. Explore with us the natural history of one of the Chapter's newest preserves in Ledyard. Please bring your own canoe, paddles, life preservers, and lunch.

We will assemble at 9 a.m. at the commuter parking lot near the intersection of Routes 2A and Route 12 in Preston next to the Norwich State Hospital. We plan to tour the preserve on foot in the afternoon. Pre-registration is not required but is encouraged for our own planning purposes. For more information and a map, contact Wendi Hyatt, Connecticut Chapter Office. The trip will be canceled if weather is too inclement.

October 28 (Saturday),
Land Trust Convocation,
West Hartford

Sponsored by TNC's Land Trust Service Bureau, the seventh annual Convocation of Land Trusts will be held on October 28 at the University of Hartford in West Hartford.

Jean Hocker, executive director of the Land Trust Exchange, has been invited to discuss the recently published Land Trust Standards and Practices. The Standards and Practices were developed "at the urging of many land trusts, who believe a strong land trust community depends on the credibility and effectiveness of all its members."

If you are interested in attending, please mark your calendars now. More information will be published in the next issue of *From the Land*.

No More Follies at Folly Brook

TNC and City Become Partners To Protect Flood-Plain Forest

The fate of Folly Brook, 88 acres of critical flood-plain forest located along the west bank of the Connecticut River south of Brainard Airport, has been secured by TNC in a precedent-setting partnership with the city of Hartford.

Folly Brook is owned by Hartford but is located in the town of Wethersfield. Approximately 20 acres of the old-growth forest were clearcut there one year ago by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) because the treetops were interfering with navigational aids at Brainard Airport.

On March 20, Hartford City Manager Alfred A. Gatta and Les Corey, executive director of the Conservancy's Connecticut Chapter, signed a conservation easement that grants certain legal rights in Folly Brook to TNC. The easement will prevent any use or development of the site that would destroy its natural and scenic condition.

"The signing of this easement is a historic moment, as it is the first

conservation easement donated by a municipality to The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut. We hope it will serve as a model for other communities to work with private land conservation groups in forging partnerships and securing protection of Connecticut's natural lands," Corey said.

Outstanding Example Of Flood-Plain Forest

With its mature stand of silver maples, cottonwoods, and black willows, Folly Brook is one of the last outstanding examples of a flood-plain forest along the river in Connecticut. Folly Brook's natural community is well-adapted to the river's seasonal flooding.

Dozens of species of birds and wildlife find refuge at Folly Brook. Green dragon, a rare flood-plain flower, is abundant on the site.

Folly Brook is one of 30 sites along the river in Connecticut targeted for preservation through the Conservancy's Connecticut River Protection Program.

DID YOU KNOW?

Northeast Utilities Awards Grant for Registry Newsletter

Northeast Utilities recently awarded TNC a \$500 grant for the Chapter's first Registry newsletter.

The newsletter, which will be sent to all individuals and organizations that have registered ecologically significant property, is part of TNC's effort to expand the Registry program.

Northeast Utilities has registered property in six locations, and actively manages these areas for the protection of rare species.



TNC Helping Mountain Club Save Vermont's Long Trail

According to the January 1988 issue of *Backpacker* magazine, the Long Trail in Vermont is one of the world's 10 best hiking trails. It is also one of the most threatened.

TNC's Vermont Chapter has joined with the Green Mountain Club to protect the Long Trail. Enjoyed by some 100,000 hikers each year, it is the nation's oldest long-distance hiking trail.

The Green Mountain Club is rushing to purchase



An unscathed part of the flood-plain forest at Folly Brook, now protected by a conservation easement negotiated by TNC with the city of Hartford. (Photo by Mark McEathron)

Tree Cutting Sparked Preservation Effort

DOT's clearcutting sparked the desire to formally protect Folly Brook's natural features. Enforcement actions by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Connecticut Fund for the Environment resulted in a consent agreement whereby DOT agreed to pay a \$100,000 fine to DEP to be used for the acquisition of similar habitat along the river and \$25,000 to UConn scientists to reestablish their research plots.

City Manager Gatta said, "This conservation easement is in the best interest of the city of Hartford and its residents, in that it allows for the protection of Folly Brook as a natural area, yet makes it available to the general public for scenic and passive recreation enjoyment."

"It has been a pleasure working with the Conservancy in preparing this agreement. The city looks forward to their professional assistance in managing Folly Brook as a natural area."

50-Year Easement

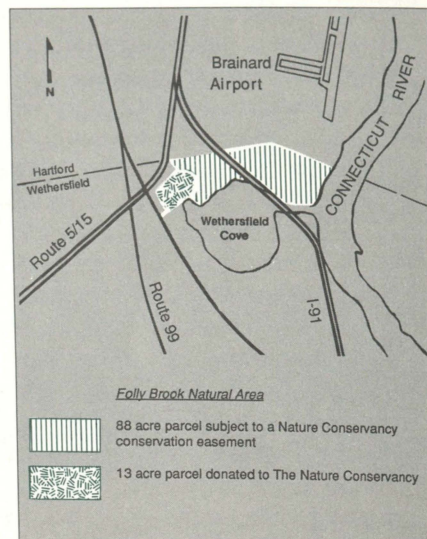
The conservation easement will extend for a term of 50 years with an option to renew. Hartford and TNC are entering into a partner-

ship that will protect the ecological significance of Folly Brook, while allowing reasonable use of the property by the city. TNC will help Hartford prepare a tree maintenance plan that will establish the procedures and schedule for any tree pruning to satisfy Federal Aviation Administration standards for the runway glide path to Brainard Airport.

The Chapter will routinely monitor the condition of the natural area and has the right to enforce all provisions contained in the easement to guarantee the site's protection. The easement also will protect the long-term study plots on the site that are being reestablished by scientific researchers from the UConn and the DEP.

"This is another fine example of how fragile environmental sites can be protected when The Nature Conservancy, a municipality, and the DEP work together," said John Anderson, deputy commissioner of DEP.

Riverfront Recapture, Inc., a private, non-profit agency working on ways to increase public recreational opportunities along the river, supports this protection effort. Denise Napier, executive director of Riverfront Recapture,



(Map by David Casagrande)

Inc., said, "We're pleased with the outcome on the disposition of the Folly Brook property because it represents a balanced approach; the conservation easement preserves the special characteristics of this waterfront site and provides for the possible extension of a river walk as an informal pathway to Folly Brook".

101 Acres Now Protected

Preservation of Folly Brook as a natural area has been a long-standing goal of TNC and the Great Meadows Conservation Trust. In the early sixties, Mrs. Francis Goodwin donated 13 acres along Folly Brook in the northwest corner of Wethersfield Cove to TNC. This land abuts the city's property being placed under conservation easement, increasing the total protected area to 101 acres. The 13-acre preserve has since been transferred by the Conservancy to Great Meadows for management.

TNC's Les Corey commented, "Folly Brook is one of Connecticut's ecological treasures, and we want to thank the Hartford City Council for taking this important step toward the permanent protection of Folly Brook. We are confident that this easement will give the degree of protection necessary to preserve the site's natural features for the next 50 years, and we remain hopeful that it will be made permanent by the city at a later date."



The Folly Brook easement signing—(from left to right) back row: Frank Childs, president of Great Meadows Conservation Trust (GMCT); Roger Ladd, Hartford City Council; Eleanor Wolf, GMCT; Delroy Shirley, City of Hartford; Geraldine Sullivan, Hartford City Council; Al Mazzota, Hartford City Council; Kate Robinson, Connecticut Fund for the Environment; Denise Napier, Riverfront Recapture. Front row: Les Corey, TNC; Alfred Gatta, Hartford city manager; Irena Lee, notary public.



the 67 miles of unprotected Long Trail. So far, more than 17 miles have been protected, with the guidance and assistance of TNC's Vermont Chapter.

Any Connecticut member who would like to help protect the Long Trail should contact the Green Mountain Club at P.O. Box 889, Montpelier, VT 05602; 802-223-3463.

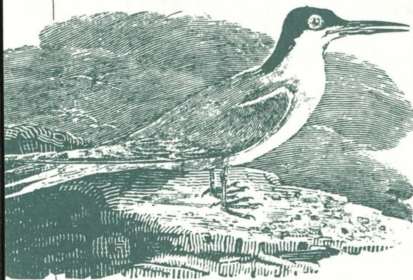
Note Colorbands On Roseate Terns

Roseate terns are being colorbanded at several colonies in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine as part of a cooperative study of the population dynamics of this endangered species.

Chicks receive a Fish and Wildlife Service metal band on one leg and a colored plastic band denoting their natal colony on the other.

Adults receive a metal band and three colorbands (two bands per leg) in a unique combination for recognition of individuals. The colors are black, brown, dark blue, dark green, light green, orange, red, white, and yellow.

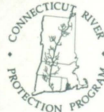
Please note the color of the upper and lower band on each leg and report observations to: Jeffrey A. Spendlow, USFWS, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20708 (301/498-0373) and to the Bird Banding Laboratory at the same address.



The Roseate Tern

Connecticut River Campaign

A Rising Tide of Commitment



Successes continue to accumulate in our Connecticut River Protection Program. We are pushing hard to achieve our goal in Connecticut of raising \$4.3 million by the summer of 1991. So far, we have received well over \$1.5 million in gifts and pledges. The generosity and dedication to conservation shown by our members are helping to create another environmental triumph for Connecticut's natural spaces.

Land registry along the river has been impressive: 490 acres have been registered by private owners. Through this program, managed by our Registry Director Mark McEathron, land owners pledge to protect their properties and to contact TNC if they plan to sell or transfer ownership of their land.

The historic agreement between the city of Hartford and TNC relating to the ecologically significant flood plain forest at Folly

Brook was followed closely by the announcement of the plan to preserve the Glastonbury Highlands. Both of these events are highlighted in this newsletter.

Groups continue to invite us to speak to them about the Connecticut River program. We present a slide show once a week, on average, to groups ranging in size from 20 to 80 people.

The strategy of bringing together the ecologically precious areas along our largest river into one major campaign is keeping the momentum needed to achieve a wonderful success story for nature. We hope all of our members become a part of it. 🌿



Summer Inventory to Help Set Priorities for Fairfield County

A field team supervised by Beth Lapin, director of science and stewardship, will conduct an inventory of natural areas in Fairfield County this summer.

The project is intended to establish land protection priorities for the county through intensive fieldwork. The field team will identify and characterize critical habitats as well as rare and endangered plants and animals.

The team collecting the data will be Juliana Panos, plant ecologist and team leader; Margaret Ardwin, botanist; and Dave Norris, zoologist.

Juliana is currently collecting information from the Department of Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Data Base, aerial photos, soil and geology maps, and knowledgeable people. This information will be used to identify natural tracts of vegetation. The

team will visit these sites throughout the summer, collecting information on rare plants and animals as well as information used to characterize community types. This data will then be used to add important natural areas to the Chapter's protection priority list, to expand the Natural Diversity Data Base within Fairfield County, and to supply critical information to public planning agencies, land managers, other conservation agencies, and the scientific community.

A fundraising budget goal of \$55,000 has been set to cover the one-year program. Support from individuals, businesses, and foundations is needed.

For more information on ways to support this program, contact Beth Lapin or Noreen Cullen at the Connecticut Chapter Office. 🌿

Chester, Old Saybrook Register River Properties

Chester and Old Saybrook recently joined the growing list of towns that have registered property with TNC. With these additions, nearly a dozen Connecticut towns have agreed to voluntarily protect ecologically significant properties.

In mid-January, Chester registered a portion of North Quarter Park, a piece of town open space. This property abuts and includes a portion of Chester Creek, one of only a handful of freshwater tidal marshes on the Connecticut River. This marsh hosts the rare water plant golden club (*Orontium aquaticum*) and is also used heavily by migrating waterfowl.

Saybrook also recently agreed to protect a piece of marshland, a tract of the Ragged Rock Creek marsh near the mouth of the Connecticut River. The entire marsh, which encompasses over 300 acres of saltwater tidal marsh, hosts large numbers of migratory waterfowl, and also provides nesting habitat for a variety of birds.

Ragged Rock Creek, which is on the western shore of the river, is located opposite the extensive (and fully protected) 650-acre Great Island Marshes on the eastern mouth of the river, just upriver of TNC's Griswold Point Preserve.

Through their actions, both towns have expressed a desire to see their important wildlife lands protected and to help maintain critical feeding and nesting areas for Connecticut's waterfowl.

Recent registries include: 🌿

Site (Owner)

Chester Creek, Chester
(Town of Chester)
Chester Creek, Chester
(Karl & June Thonnes)
Enfield Rapids, Suffield
(Mike & Carol Axel)
Enfield Rapids, Suffield
(Donald & Carol Rollet)
Glastonbury Highlands,
Glastonbury
(Gerhard & Duffy Schade)
Glastonbury Highlands,
Glastonbury
(Betty & Don Somers)
Higby Mountain, Middletown
(Robert & Lois Merriam)
Ragged Rock Creek, Old Saybrook
(Town of Old Saybrook)
Ragged Rock Creek, Old Saybrook
(Enid & Gifford Warner)
Sharon Mine Mountain, Sharon
(Edgar Moore Church)
Sharon Mine Mountain, Sharon
(Dana Creel)



R. Braumfield

Losing Our Lease!

TNC Needs Site For New Office

We're losing our lease!

But fear not: we have no need for a going-out-of-business sale.

What we do need—and soon—so that we can continue to pursue efficiently our mission of preserving scientifically significant habitats, is a suitable building lot or an existing building of about 5,000 square feet in or around greater Middletown.

So that we readily can reach all parts of the state, a site with access to Route 9, Route 66, or I-91 would be ideal.

Since our lease at 55 High St. ends in the summer of 1990, we must find new space very quickly.

If you know of a site that we might be able to acquire as a gift, as a bargain sale, or at a low rent, we would be very grateful for your help. Please call Les Corey, executive director, or Noreen Cullen, director of resources. 🌿



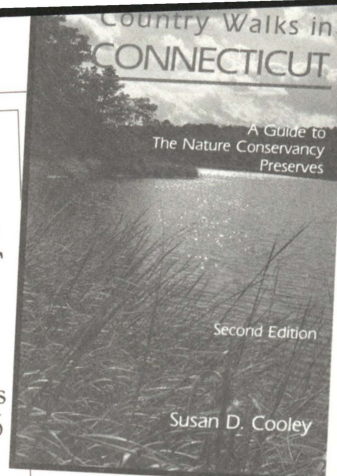
This spring over 40 Conservancy volunteers erected a fence to protect the nesting area for piping plovers and least terns at Griswold Point in Old Lyme. 🌿



This historic photo, a gift of Miss Felice Marnicki, captures the mystical qualities of Bailey's Ravine at Ayers Gap. The area has changed little since this photo was taken. Ayers Gap has been saved thanks to a generous outpouring of Conservancy gifts. Chapter members and friends donated \$95,354 toward establishment of our newest preserve, in Franklin. Donations were used to cover the preserve's acquisition costs and create a permanent stewardship fund. 🌿

JUST OFF THE PRESS the revised second edition of COUNTRY WALKS IN CONNECTICUT by Susan Cooley

This updated edition published by Appalachian Mountain Club books takes walkers and skiers through 46 diverse walks in rural Connecticut on preserves managed by TNC. There are excursions to mountain summits and wooded ravines, marshlands and rivers, bogs and heaths, each accompanied by a map, access and precise trail directions, as well as engaging commentary on nature and social and historical features. In this second edition, four new walks have been added, some updated, and others deleted. The new *Country Walks* will prove an essential addition to your library and great fun for family and friends during the summer months ahead. Copies are now available by contacting the Middletown office, telephone 344-0716. Including sales tax, the price is \$8.55 for members and \$9.62 for non-members. Please add \$1 for postage and handling. Previously ordered copies will be forwarded. 🌿



In Memory

We sadly note the recent passing of two great Conservancy friends, Bethuel M. Webster of Manhattan and Winchester on March 31 and H. Lincoln Foster of Falls Village on April 7.

From 1964 to 1977, Mr. Webster made several gifts of land to the Conservancy, establishing the Silas Hall Pond Preserve in Winchester. The 108 acres of the preserve are typical of the terrain in the north-west corner of the state, being a combination of northern mixed hardwood uplands and lowland bog.

A graduate of Harvard Law School and founder of the Manhattan law firm of Webster & Sheffield, Mr. Webster held many public posts and served on the boards of numerous foundations and public service organizations. Among other positions, he was trustee of the Ford Foundation from 1961-1970, a former chairman of the Drug Abuse Council, a former member of the New York City Art Commission, and a former director of the American Arbitration Association.

Mr. Foster was a conservationist of considerable renown. He was recently featured in the CPTV film, "Endangered," co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter. He was former chairman of the Falls Village Conservation Commission and past president of the Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council. He was the recipient of the first Charles Downing Lay Award from the Housatonic Valley Association and was awarded the Ford Foundation Fellowship for the study of conservation at the conservation school of Yale University in 1963.

In 1977, his wife, Laura Louise Foster, who now deceased, donated



Eagle Count Signals Regional Recovery

Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection reports that the Winter Eagle Survey tallied 88 eagles within our state this year. This is the highest number in the last 11 years and a 69 percent increase over 1988's survey. The consistent increase reflects a regional recovery of the species, although it still requires rigorous protection.

A special thanks to all our dedicated Conservancy volunteers at Shepaug Dam who helped maintain an important eagle area.

Corporations Support Conservation Work

The Connecticut Chapter thanks the following corporations that have helped us advance conservation in Connecticut through their generosity:

IBM—Donation of a computer valued at \$5,000.

Xerox—A \$7,500 grant to fund the CPTV production, "Endangered."

Bridgeport Hydraulic—Our newest Corporate Associate agreeing to help fund our operation annually at \$1,500.

Northeast Utilities—A \$500 grant for the production and distribution of the Connecticut Chapter's first Registry newsletter (see article).

The Nature Conservancy
proudly presents
Connecticut Public Television's
production of:

"ENDANGERED"
The Video

A look at Connecticut's
rare and endangered species and efforts
to protect them.

We have a number of video (VHS)
copies of "Endangered" on hand that
we would be pleased to lend to our
members for three weeks at a cost of \$5
(to cover postage and handling). To
borrow your copy, please fill out the
form below.

Name _____

Address _____

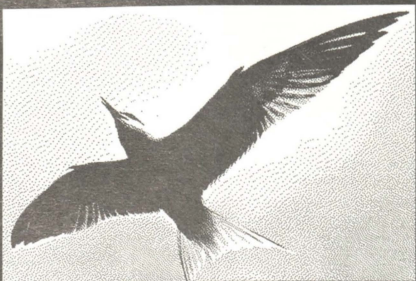
City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (Days) _____

Date Needed _____

Mail to: "Endangered" Video
The Nature Conservancy
55 High St.
Middletown, CT 06457



Falkner Island T E R N P R O J E C T

Help support the Falkner Island Tern Project by buying a T-shirt with the logo above. The 100 percent cotton shirts are white with black printing. They are available in sizes M, L, and XL, for \$10 each plus \$2 shipping.

_M Name _____
_L Address _____
_XL City _____
State _____ ZIP _____

Please make your check payable to:
Little Harbor Labs—FITP
Mail to: Little Harbor Labs, 69 Andrews Road, Guilford, CT 06437

Foster, also now deceased, donated to the Conservancy 41.5 acres of land in Canaan at Cobble Hill (now part of Wangum Lake Brook Preserve). The site is an important calcareous wetland and harbors a rare plant species.

In lieu of flowers, Mr. Webster's and Mr. Foster's families have suggested that memorial donations may be made to The Nature Conservancy.

Our deepest sympathy goes to their families. Both men will be sorely missed. 🌿

WARNING

TICKS !

Ticks are found in most of Connecticut in woods, open fields, downtown, backyards. Wear light colored long pants and long sleeve shirts. Carefully check your body at night. Ticks can cause Lyme disease!

Ticks can be smaller than this dot ➡ ●



What things (of the inanimate variety) are lurking in your garage? Perhaps you have some of the items. We would be thrilled to receive gifts of any of the following:

- VHS VCR for video presentations
- video camera
- hand pruners, loppers, light saws, hammers
- electric typewriter in good condition
- fax machine
- propane generator
- propane refrigerator
- weather station equipment (rain gauge, max min thermometer, anemometer)
- binoculars
- spotting scope
- Nikon FG camera body with or without lens

A special THANK YOU to those who granted some of our previous wishes:

Michael Simonds for his gift of a tripod.

Kristine Kurdys for her gift of a tripod.

Mrs. Pinkham for the offer to donate a brush hog for preserves in north-eastern Connecticut.

George Jewitt for his continued exemplary production of wooden signs for our preserves.

Site Finder

Use this map to find the sites mentioned in the articles in this issue of "From the Land."

Enfield Rapids (Suffield)—site of recent registries
Sharon Mine Mountain (Sharon)—site of recent registries
Folly Brook (Wethersfield)—TNC secures 50-year easement for 88 acres of flood-plain forest.
Higby Mountain (Middletown)—site of recent registry
Shepaug Dam (Southbury)—winter eagle watch site maintained by TNC volunteers
Devil's Den Preserve (Weston)—photographic workshop led by Tom Chiapel on June 4.
Ordway Preserve (Weston)—nature walks on May 27 and June 11



Connecticut State Museum of Natural History—wild-flower festival on June 11.
Glastonbury Highlands (Glastonbury)—TNC hopes to buy 166 acres otherwise headed for development in heart of 3,000-acre forest.
Bailey's Ravine (Franklin)—a scenic portion of TNC's newest preserve, Ayers Gap.
Poquetanuck Cove (Ledyard)—canoe tour on June 17
Chester Creek (Chester)—land along fresh-water tidal marsh registered by town of Chester.
Griswold Point (Old Lyme)—site where volunteers erected fence to protect nesting sites.
Ragged Rock Creek (Old Saybrook)—300 acres of salt-water marsh registered by town of Old Saybrook.

From the Land 🌿

Published quarterly for the members of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

Editor: Jack McCain
Designer: Pollard Design
Contributing Writers: Connecticut Chapter Staff and Trustees

Revised *Country Walks* Awaits Acorns

Chapter Hopes for Greater Response To State-Wide Fundraising Appeal

Perhaps you don't pay much attention to the return addresses on the mail you receive from TNC, but you receive mail from two different locations.

Six times a year you receive our beautiful magazine from our national headquarters in Arlington, VA; Arlington also sends you your annual membership renewal notice and other fund-raising appeals at the national level.

Four times a year you receive this newsletter, published in Middletown by the Connecticut Chapter.

This spring we at the Connecticut Chapter also sent a letter of appeal to our 14,000 members. To date, only 3 percent have responded with a contribution that will be used primarily to support our operations in *Connecticut*.

We suspect the response has been so low because most of our supporters can recall recently renewing their membership in TNC or making a supplemental contribution. However, your renewal occurs at the *national* level; even though you automatically become a member of the Connecticut Chapter when you send your contribution to our headquarters in Arlington, most of your money of course is used to support our work across the nation and around the world.

While your Connecticut Chapter, like the other state chapters, does receive a share of the national dues, we must complement the national campaign with our own state-wide fundraising effort. As you know, Connecticut is an expensive state in which to live, let alone for a non-profit organization to operate.

We call the people who contribute \$100 or more to the Connecticut Chapter "Connecticut Acorns." This year our Acorns will receive a most appropriate premium, the 1989 edition of *Country Walks in Connecticut*, the authoritative guide to our preserves. If you've already acquired the new edition, we'll send you a set of postcards featuring the least bittern instead.

Because you are TNC members, we know you want to protect Connecticut's wildlife—bald eagles, showy lady's slippers, and all of the species of plants and animals now rare or threatened with extinction. We know each member cares about the quality of the environment that we are leaving to our children and grandchildren; we know each worries about the alarming rate at which species are disappearing.

If you have not yet contributed to the Connecticut Chapter's spring appeal for operating funds, please send in your check with the coupon below today.

Your gift to the Conservancy will make a difference in protecting the best examples of Connecticut's natural heritage forever. 🌿

YES, I want to support the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy in its efforts to protect Connecticut's finest remaining habitats.

___ *\$1,000
___ *\$500
___ *\$250
___ *\$100 (Acorn)
___ \$50
___ \$35

No gift is too small; the Chapter needs your support more than ever. Please send your contribution today.

Name _____

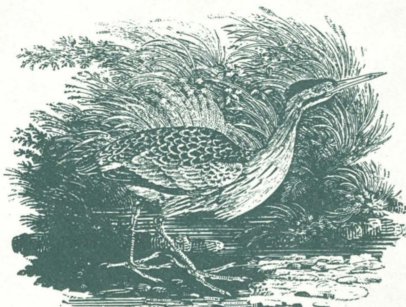
Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone _____

* For donations of \$100 and above, you may select a set of 10 least bittern postcards or an updated (1989) copy of *Country Walks in Connecticut, A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves*, by Susan Cooley. IRS regulations now require that you deduct the fair-market value of a premium from your donation when you prepare your tax return. The fair market value of the postcards is \$3; the book, \$8.95.



The Nature Conservancy 🌿

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Migratory Birds Depend On Winter Habitat, Too

Teacher! Teacher! Teacher!
TEACHER!

The crescendo echoes through the mature forest in Connecticut. A six-inch brown bird with a streaked breast drops to the forest floor to search for invertebrates. It is an ovenbird, a member of the American wood warbler family.

Ovenbirds received their name from the oven-like nest that the female builds on the forest floor. The nest is covered with a roof of dead leaves that sheds rain and conceals the eggs and young.

These birds nest in most of the eastern United States but they winter in the rain forests of Central and South America. When they arrive in their traditional wintering areas, they often find that much of their former habit has disappeared.

It is estimated that an area of rain forest the size of Connecticut is cleared every 23 days. Some experts extrapolate from this rate to predict that the world's tropical rain forests will disappear by the year 2000.



Ovenbird, *Seiurus aurocapillus*,
(photo by
Mike Hopiak
for the Cornell
Laboratory of
Ornithology)

Some bird researchers in the eastern United States have noted decreases in several species of birds, including ovenbirds, by up to 95 percent in some areas. This may be due to degradation of wintering areas.

However, researchers in Connecticut also point out that nesting areas here are being modified, too. Roads divide existing forested lands, houses provide more edge and open areas and attract a different group of birds and a number of predators. In some areas, where the landscape is being carved into pieces, interior nesting birds are declining.

In other parts of the state, ovenbirds are increasing in numbers. This may be due to the reverting of many fields to forest over the last 50 years. As tracts of forested

lands grow larger, more ovenbirds can use these areas. If these reclaimed areas are subdivided and developed, a decrease probably will be noted.

All this points to the obvious interconnection of our activities in both the northern and southern portions of our hemisphere. It is just as detrimental to the birds to protect tropical rain forests while permitting the indiscriminate fragmentation of deciduous woodlands as it is to protect New England's forests without providing tropical rain forests for wintering areas.

Our partnerships and commitments between North and South America will solidify the possibility that our songbirds—ovenbirds and others—will continue to flourish. 🌿

The Nature Conservancy at Work

	Nationally	Connecticut
Total Projects	8,240	483
Total Acres Saved	3,643,292*	18,497
Acres Registered	—	5,071
Tracts Registered	2,547	139
Tradelands Received	875	12
Members	508,528	13,921
Corporate Associates	273	13

*Includes registered properties



From the Land 🌿

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